



# CONSERVATION CONNECTIONS



*Newsletter of the St. Louis Region Shooting Range & Outdoor Education Centers*

*The August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center  
&  
The Jay Henges Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center*

*Volume 1, Issue 15*

*October/November 2006*

## **"Shooter Moms"**

*By Bill Dunn, National Shooting Sports Foundation ©*



Youth sports and mothers go hand-in-hand. This well-known fact has given names like "soccer moms" and "Little League moms" a place in modern American culture.

"Shooter moms" have gone relatively unnoticed in popular culture, but now that appears to be changing.

With the rising popularity of youth shooting programs, shooter moms are becoming more and more noticeable behind the firing line at trapshooting competitions around the country.

Last year at the Grand American,

more than 1,500 young shooters from the National Shooting Sports Foundation's Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) participated in SCTP's national trap championships. That translated to a mother lode of moms.

"Shooting has taken over our world," said Sharon Haver, one of many SCTP mothers from Michigan's Lenawee County. Haver's son Chris competes in trap, skeet and sporting



clays, which has kept him—and her—pretty busy.

"We're very involved," Haver said of the shooter moms in her community. "We're keeping scores, we're driving them around, we're making potluck lunches and dinners for the state shoots and, sometimes, at the clubs we're even pulling targets."

No one can attest to the involvement of mothers in trapshooting more than

Sharon Rhode, who might be called the "mother of all shooter moms." Her daughter, Kim Rhode, has traveled a lot in her shooting career—nationally and internationally. She also has a lot to show for it, including two Olympic gold medals, one Olympic bronze, and six national championships in double trap.

"One of the things that attracted us to shooting is the involvement of the parents with the kids," Rhode said. "The camaraderie between kids and parents is just great and I think other parents would say the same thing. It's a very family oriented sport."

Though her daughter's sport has taken up much of her time over the years, Rhode says it all has been worth it.

"You're child learns a lot about friendship through sports, whether it be shooting or soccer or whatever," Rhode said. "I've watched Kim grow as a person through shooting."

Rhode's observations aren't unique. In a 2005 SCTP survey, 94 percent of parents said the competitive shooting program is a positive influence in their child's development. Overwhelmingly, parents observed improved responsibility,



teamwork, sportsmanship and leadership skills. In fact, 98 percent of SCTP parents believe shooting is just as important as other sports, and 94 percent would support shotgun sports as a school-based athletic program.

When they're not driving, fund-raising, supplying food and ammo or pulling targets, shooter moms can be found in the cheering section at local,



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## 2006 NSCA/NSSF Scholarship Recipient

### Missouri Youth Receives National Recognition

The 2006 NSCA/NSSF Scholarship recipient is Brian Ehrich from Laclede, Missouri.



Brian will be studying Animal Sciences at the University of Missouri and is looking forward to a great higher education as well as gaining the experience of competing on a shotgun team at the collegiate level even though the university does not offer shooting scholarships.

Although Brian has only shot NSCA registered targets for the past year, he has shot in sporting clays competitions the past six years through the **Youth Hunter Education Challenge**

at the state and national levels. Brian also has shot shotguns in 4-H for the past six years and FFA for the past four years. He is currently a shooter on a Scholastic Clay Target Program Team and was honored when his coach, Dave Johnson, asked him to serve as an assistant coach for the team. Brian has enjoyed spending time with shooters his own age and being able to help them out and teach them some of the small tricks he has learned through his years of experience. Brian believes he wouldn't be the shooter he is today without the assistance and guidance of fellow shooters and is pleased to share his love for the sport with others his age and younger.

Brian has also enjoyed shooting sporting clays at his local club and meeting gentlemen of the sport. Their attitudes have shown him that he can make a difference and be a major contributor to the sport without being the best shooter.

Last summer he qualified for the Missouri 4-H Shotgun Team to compete at the National Shooting Sports Invitational. This competition encourages a well-rounded shooter in Trap, Skeet and Sporting Clays. Qualifying for this team gave him the opportunity to shoot at some new clubs and to receive coaching from some really respected shooters. Two great shooters and coaches that helped Brian are Ralph Gates and Tyler Schwab. They showed him how to become a more technical shooter and how to read the flight of targets in sporting clays. Brian believes that sporting clays is a very challenging discipline and that perfection is very rare. He enjoys shooting sporting clays the most because there is always room for improvement and always a new target to be shot. Gates and Schwab are also very involved on the Mizzou Shotgun Team and have encouraged Brian to set that as a goal, which he knows is well within his reach but making the team is just the beginning. Mizzou has become a well respected shotgun team the last few years and to be one of its top competitors is his ultimate shooting goal.

As a member of the Laclede United Methodist Church, Brian has also completed several service projects including painting and restoration projects within his church, nursing home visits, assistance to the elderly and assisting with Bible School and younger Sunday School classes during the summer months. As a member of his local FFA chapter and Student Council, he has also participated in service projects such as ringing the bell for the Salvation Army, adopting families at Christmas, food drives, community clean-up day and campus improvements such as pulling weeds and picking

up trash in the parking lots. Brian has served as Recreation Leader, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, and President (two years) of the local 4-H Club (Pershing's Pride, Laclede, MO); Treasurer (two years), Vice-President and is currently President of the Linn County 4-H Council; Northeast Regional Representative for the Missouri State 4-H Council for two years and he is running for a third term; Sentinel, Student Council Representative, Vice-President and President of the Brookfield R-III FFA Chapter. Brian is a member of National Honor Society and Fellowship of Christian Athletes, as well as the Laclede United Methodist Church.

In FFA, he received several awards including Proficiency Awards in Entrepreneurship in Grain Production, Swine Production and Diversified Livestock Production, as well as the Chapter Star Farmer Award, Area FFA Degree, State FFA Degree and the Dekalb Award for Outstanding Senior Member. Brian was also chosen last year as the Outstanding Boy in Linn County 4-H, and received the President's Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence Award and Passport to the Future Award at our academic awards night. (Source: November 2006 Issue Sporting Clays magazine, courtesy of NSCA)

(“Shooter Mom’s” cont’d from pg 1)

state and national shoots—all of them trying their best to stay quiet.

“Before the SCTP state championship for trap last year, they sent an e-mail that told us not to clap or hoot and holler, but that’s really hard when you’re a parent,” Haver said.



Of course, some moms aren't content as spectators. More and more are trying their hand at coaching SCTP teams, or even stepping up to the firing line and taking up trapshooting themselves. In fact, nationally, female participation in shotgun sports grew 11 percent between 1997 and 2004.

While youth trapshooting might not yet have the participation numbers of Little League and soccer, it is one of the fastest growing sports in America, thanks in part to programs like SCTP.

Last year alone, SCTP saw a 50 percent increase in participation, its most successful year in the program's five-year history. The program now includes more than 8,000 participants nationwide, a number that is continually rising.

So while “shooter moms” isn't yet a household name, it might not be far off. After all, what could be more American than a “Shooter Mom”?

(© National Shooting Sports Foundation; photos by Steve Wagner, NSSF)





**August A. Busch Memorial Outdoor Education Center**  
**To Register for Programs/Classes Call (636) 441-4554**  
**ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE OF CHARGE TO THE PUBLIC UNLESS NOTED**

**OCTOBER PROGRAMS**

**How to build a Wooden Rabbit Trap**  
**Wednesday, 4th – 6pm to 9pm**



Enjoy the outdoors and always wanted to make an old fashion wooden rabbit trap box? Like to work with your hands and construct projects? This simple project is ideal for parents and children, scouts, and anyone who enjoys projects. All materials will be provided and individuals will be able to take home their traps. **Registration opens August 21st.**

**Pheasants Forever Youth Upland Game Bird Clinic & Hunt**

**Thursday, 5th – Clinic 6pm to 9pm**  
**& Sunday, 8th – Hunting 7am to 1pm**



Learn about various types of upland game bird hunting and participate in a hunt with an opportunity to bag your own pheasant. Youth must be 10 to 15 years of age and able to safely control and shoot a shotgun on their own. **Registration opens August 21st.**

**Missouri Hunter Education Course**  
**Tuesday, 10th thru Thursday, 12th –**  
**5:30pm to 9:30pm each night**



Hunter Education Certification Course, start time 5:30pm each night, open to ages 11 and up, youth ages 11 thru 13 must have adult attend with them, ages 15 and younger must bring birth certificate, ages 16 and older must have a valid ID. Must attend all three nights and pass test. Have problems making weekend courses, want to miss the crowds? This class is for you, held on three consecutive week nights for those with busy weekends and tight schedules. **Registration opens August 28th.**

**Wader / Water Safety**

**Tuesday, 17th – 6pm to 9pm**



Be prepared for the upcoming waterfowl season by learning the proper techniques in the event of an incident in the water. Learn how your waders can be an asset or a liability, depending on the situation. **Registration opens September 4th.**

**Campfire Building Basics & Hot Dog Roast**  
**Wednesday, 18th – 6pm to 9pm**



This program will cover numerous methods of fire starting for the curious, camper and hiker to those interested in survival skills. Great program for scouts and other youth groups. Open to all ages, under 13 must be accompanied by an adult. Hot dogs and buns provided, bring your own marshmallows if wanted. **Registration opens September 4th.**

**Remember**

Busch and Henges Shooting Ranges  
are offering  
FREE bore sighting of scoped rifles  
for those using our facilities.

Owners must stay with the firearm while being sighted in.

By the time I was ten years old I had graduated from flips, slingshots, and BB guns to owning a .22 rifle and a bolt action 4-shot model .410 from Sears Roebuck. - *President Jimmy Carter*

**Build a Bird Feeder for our Feathered Friends**  
**Thursday, 19th - 6pm to 9pm**



Enjoy watching birds feeding in your back yard? Like to work with your hands and construct projects? This simple project is ideal for parents and children, scouts, and anyone who enjoys projects. All materials will be provided and individuals will be able to take home their feeders. **Registration opens September 5th.**

**NRA Whitetail Deer Hunting Clinic**  
**Saturday, 21st – 8am to 4pm**



This course will cover all aspects of hunting the Whitetail Deer from preparation to safety, including equipment, scouting, tactics, game recovery and much more. **Registration opens September 7th.**

**NRA Basic Rifle Certification Course**  
**Tuesday, 24th thru Thursday, 26th –**  
**6pm to 9pm each night &**  
**Saturday, 28th - 8am to 2pm**



The 14-hour course is conducted in four classes. A Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday evening classroom/shooting sessions and a Saturday shooting session at the range and 2 hour final session at the classroom. Attendees must be 10 years of age or older. Youth 15 and younger must attend with an adult. **Registration opens September 11th.**

**Wild Game Cooking**

**Thursday, 26th – 6pm to 9pm**



Spouse hunts and just not sure how to prepare the game they bring home? Intimidated by having to prepare something unique, by today's standards? We'll discuss some of the basics along with swapping recipes and doing a little taste testing of our own. **Registration opens September 12th.**

**Dutch Oven Cooking**

**Saturday, 28th – 2pm to 5pm**



Got that big iron Dutch Oven, pot looking thing a just don't have a clue? Looking for recipes or how to use it to make something different for the family or a get together? Well join us as we cover how to use this oven like a pro. We'll discuss recipes, seasoning, heat, temps, and much more. We'll even taste test some of those recipes ourselves. **Registration opens September 14th.**

**Did you pick up this Conservation Connections Newsletter at a business or range?**

**Would you like to have it delivered to your home or business for free or know someone else who would enjoy receiving it?**

**Just give us a call with the mailing address of your friends, family, and/or yourself and we will mail it right to your home or business.**

**For Our Free**  
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**(636) 441-4554**

# August A. Busch Memorial Outdoor Education Center

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## NRA Basic Muzzle Loading Rifle Certification

Wednesday, 1st & Thursday, 2nd – 6pm to 9pm &  
Saturday, 4th – 8am to 3pm

This is your last chance before the season opener. This program covers safety, handling, types, powders, bullets, equipment, marksmanship fundamentals and more. The Range will provide all firearms and ammunition for those without equipment. Participants should bring their own firearms, ammunition, equipment, and owner's manual to the course. **Registration opens September 18th.**



## Deep Frying Turkeys

Saturday, 4th – 9am to 1pm

Got that new deep fryer and got your turkey, so now what do you do? We will cover some how to prep that bird in differing ways. We will also cover safety of the deep fryer and its use. We will even deep fry and taste test a couple of the birds. **Registration opens September 28th.**



## Missouri Hunter Education Course

Tuesday, 7th thru Thursday, 9th –  
5:30pm to 9:30pm each night

Hunter Education Certification Course, start time 5:30pm each night, open to ages 11 and up, youth ages 11 thru 13 must have adult attend with them, ages 15 and younger must bring birth certificate, ages 16 and older must have a valid ID. Must attend all three nights and pass test. Have problems making weekend courses, want to miss the crowds? This class is for you, held on three consecutive week nights for those with busy weekends and tight schedules. **Registration opens September 11th.**



## How to Build a Wren or Chickadee Bird House

Tuesday, 14th – 6pm to 9pm

Participants will assemble/construct a Wren/Chickadee bird house that has been pre-cut and take home with them along with the plans for building their own. **Registration opens October 2nd.**



## Build a Bird Feeder for our Feathered Friends

Wednesday, 15th – 6pm to 9pm

Enjoy watching birds feeding in your back yard? Like to work with your hands and construct projects? This simple project is ideal for parents and children, scouts, and anyone who enjoys projects. All materials will be provided and individuals will be able to take home their feeders. **Registration opens October 2nd.**



## Trap Shooting Basics

Thursday, 16th - 6pm to 9pm &  
Saturday, 18th – 8am to 12pm

This course does not include basic shotgun shooting or instruction. This program is for individuals with experience shooting and handling shotguns. Course will cover and instruct shooters on the game of trap shooting. Attendees may bring own shotgun, 3 boxes #7 1/2 or #8 shot trap/target loads, eye and ear protection or ALL equipment will be provided by MDC. **Registration opens October 2nd.**



The bag limit [has become] the minimum proof of prowess, rather than the maximum limit of respectability (for which it was originally intended).

*Aldo Leopold*

## NOVEMBER PROGRAMS

### Air Rifle Basics for the Beginner

(BB and Pellet rifles)

Wednesday, 22nd - 6pm to 9pm

The Beginning Air Rifle Program for anyone ages 8 and above. Air rifles and equipment will be provided, however individuals may bring their own air rifle, ammunition, and owner's manual to the course. Youth under 13 must be accompanied by an adult during the training and recommended for all others. **Registration opens October 6th.**



### NRA Shotshell Reloading

Tuesday, 28th & Thursday, 29th –  
5:30pm to 9:30pm each night

The course is designed to enable shooters with little or no prior experience in reloading to acquire the necessary knowledge, skills and attitude to produce safe, consistent and accurate reloaded ammunition. Through this course, the student will learn basic reloading procedures; information about choosing hulls, powders, primers, wads and shot or slugs; information about different types of reloading equipment; and their proper set-up and operation. Note that the course is designed to impart knowledge on the reloading process, not to give loads for specific cartridges. Must be 8 years of age or older. **Registration opens October 16th.**



### .22 cal Rifle Basics

Thursday, 30th -- 6pm to 9pm &  
Saturday, December 2nd -- 8am to 12pm

We will cover the safety of shooting every body's favorite rifle, the .22 caliber. Topics include sight picture, ammo, actions, proper trigger control, ammo, actions, proper trigger and breath control. Shooters may bring their own rifles and ammunition, limited to .22 cal Short, Long, or Long Rifle ammunition only. **Registration opens October 16th.**



### Skeet Shooting Basics

Thursday, 30th – 6pm to 9pm &  
Saturday, December 2nd – 8am to 12pm

This course does not include basic shotgun shooting or instruction. This program is for all individuals, with experience shooting and handling shotguns. Course will cover and instruct shooters on the game of skeet shooting. Attendees may bring own shotgun, 3 boxes #8 or #9 shot skeet loads, eye and ear protection or ALL equipment will be provided by MDC. **Registration opens October 16th.**



### Busch & Henges Ranges Winter Hour Operations

#### Busch Range

Open Fridays thru Tuesdays -- 10am to 4pm  
Closed Wednesdays & Thursdays (Office Open Only)  
State/Federal Holidays, & Special Events

#### Henges Range

Open Wednesdays thru Sundays — 10am to 4pm  
Closed Mondays & Tuesdays (Office Open Only)  
State/Federal Holidays, & Special Events

#### Range Physical Locations:

Busch Range	Henges Range
3500 Hwy D	1100 Antire Rd.
Defiance, MO 63341	High Ridge, MO 63049

# Jay Henges Outdoor Education Center

To Register for Programs/Classes Call (636) 938-9548

ALL PROGRAMS ARE **FREE OF CHARGE** TO THE PUBLIC UNLESS NOTED

## OCTOBER PROGRAMS

### Missouri Outdoor Women's Basic Handgun

Wednesday, 4th -- 6:30pm to 8:30pm, &  
Friday, 6th -- 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Learn how to safely handle and shoot handguns. We will become familiar with the basic parts of a handgun, operation, shooting fundamentals, and live fire on the range will be offered. This is a two-part program including classroom instruction and range time. This is a popular program, register early. This class does not meet the requirements for carry concealed training. **Registration opens September 5th.**



### Introduction to Backpacking

Thursday, 5th -- 6pm to 9pm

This course will include backpacking skills, basic equipment selection, choosing a campsite, and places to go. **Registration opens September 5th.**



### Deer Camp

Saturday, 7th -- 9am to 4pm

Join us for a day at Deer Camp, a Missouri family tradition. Various activities will be offered and several exhibitors and vendors will display their wares. All divisions of the Department of Conservation will be on hand to assist hunters, provide information, and answer questions for deer hunters of all ages. The Operation Game Thief exhibit will be on display. **No registration required.**



### Why Does My Husband Hunt?

Wednesday, 11th -- 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Be part of an interesting discussion on why your husband, (spouse, boyfriend, or significant other) enjoys hunting. This will be presented from both a male and female perspective. **Registration opens September 11th.**



### Missouri Hunter Education Certification Course

Saturday, 14th & Sunday, 15th -- 9am to 4pm each day

The Hunter Education Certification Course is open to ages 11 and up. Youth ages 11 through 13 must have an adult attend with them. Ages 15 and younger must bring birth certificate, and ages 16 and older must have a valid ID. Students must attend both days and pass exam. **Registration opens September 14th. For registration, call 636-441-4554.**



### Intermediate Trap

Wednesday, 18th -- 6pm to 8pm, &  
Saturday, 21st -- 8am to 10am

Learn to improve your trap shooting game. We will learn the fundamentals of movement, stance, mount, and vision. The first session is lecture, with shooting at the second session. Shooters will receive personalized instruction. **Registration opens September 18th.**



### Missouri Hunter Education Certification Course

Saturday, 21st & Sunday, 22nd -- 9am to 4pm each day

The Hunter Education Certification Course is open to ages 11 and up. Youth ages 11 through 13 must have an adult attend with them. Ages 15 and younger must bring birth certificate, and ages 16 and older must have a valid ID. Students must attend both days and pass exam. **Registration opens September 22nd. For registration, call 636-441-4554.**



### Photography For Hunters

Thursday, 26th -- 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Join us for an informative program on how to improve your photographic skills while pursuing your favorite hunting or outdoor activities. We will include both film and digital camera basics. Learn how to make great memories of your hunting trips. **Registration opens September 26th.**



### African American Archery Clinic & Hunt

Friday, 27th -- 6pm to 9pm, &

Saturday, 28th -- 6am to 9:30am

This course is designed to teach students the basic fundamentals of archery shooting, bowhunting skills, wildlife identification and deer biology. Students will be required to practice at Henges prior to the hunt in preparation for marksmanship proficiency. Details of the hunt to be announced during clinic. **Registration opens September 27th.**



I can still remember the first time I pulled a trigger on a .410 shotgun, because I was too little to hold a 12-gauge. This is part of the culture of a big part of America - *President Bill Clinton, after returning from a duck hunt, December 27, 1993*

shooting again you neglected to allow for everyone to get back from down range when you commenced shooting again.

When you reach your booth, turn your indicator plate to the appropriate color and have a seat behind your booth. All shooters must wait until the line officer has determined everyone is back from down range. The range officer may also give some additional information or remind everyone on special rules before being allowed back into their booths and handling a firearm. Then the command to commence fire will be given.

Treating all firearms as though they are loaded will help ensure against an accidental discharge. Having a loaded firearm in the gun rack is a no-no. If you're not paying attention or forgetfulness sets in and you don't unload, by treating all firearms as loaded you will keep everyone, including yourself safer.

All hunters should be nature lovers. -- *Theodore Roosevelt*

## Range Rules to Remember....

By Jim Engel, Henges Range Officer

"Commence Fire"

and

"Treat all Firearms As Though They Are Loaded"

The last Rule to Remember article was "Cease Fire". In this issue we will go over the Commence Fire rule. It may sound like we don't need this as a rule but, if you think about it we do.

When shooters are making their way back from down range after checking or posting new targets, and getting back to their booths, some shooters just can't wait to start throwing lead at their target. This is understandable. But if we didn't have a Commence Fire command how would you know when everyone was back and accounted for? What a terrible thought that in your haste to start



# Jay Henges Outdoor Education Center

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**ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE OF CHARGE TO THE PUBLIC UNLESS NOTED**

## NOVEMBER PROGRAMS

### African American Shotgun Deer Clinic & Hunt

Wednesday, 1st -- 6pm to 8pm &

Saturday, 11th -- 6am to 10am

Our African American shotgun clinic will begin with classroom instruction on firearms safety, marksmanship, woodsmanship, wildlife identification, and field dressing techniques. Hunter Education certification will be required of all participants. Details of the hunt will be announced at the clinic. **Registration opens October 2nd.**



### Missouri Outdoor Women's Basic Shotgun

Saturday, 4th -- Noon to 4pm

Learn the basics of shotgun selection, proper fit, ammunition choices, safety, shooting skills, and shotgun games. There will be a shooting activity for this program. **Registration opens October 4th.**



## Bowhunter Education is an Untapped Treasure

By: *Jim Low*

Learning from experienced archers can shorten neophytes' learning curve or add depth to experienced bowhunters' knowledge.

Bowhunters have more than a little in common with Zen masters. They discipline themselves to sit motionless for hours at a time, not swatting when mosquitoes buzz around their ears or flinching when gnats fly up their noses. They learn to move through the autumn woods as silently as ghosts. They draw their bows and hold them until joints ache and muscles quiver, waiting for the precise moment to release their arrows for quick, clean kills. Yet, very few take time to sit through an eight-hour bowhunter education class offered by the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Why? For one thing, bowhunter education is not mandatory in Missouri. Firearms hunters born on or after Jan. 1, 1967, must successfully complete training that includes firearm safety, hunting ethics and other important hunting knowledge. In contrast, bowhunter education classes remain voluntary, thanks to bowhunters' impeccable safety record.

"Bowhunting accidents are almost unheard of," said Brian Bethel, hunter education coordinator for the Conservation Department. "The nature of bowhunting works against most of the kinds of accidents that firearms hunters are subject to. Bowhunters have to get very close to their game and place their shots exactly. Arrows that miss their intended target don't travel far, and bows are not prone to go off because they were kept loaded when they shouldn't have been. It's just a very safe activity."

If bowhunter education is not required, and if safety - the main reason for firearms hunter education - is not a serious concern to bowhunters, maybe the question is not so much why few bowhunters take the training, but why any of them do. Bethel said part of the answer lies in other states' hunting regulations. Missouri hunters must get certified if they want to pursue deer, elk or other big game in states where bowhunter education is mandatory.

Furthermore, some communities in the Show-Me State are

### Youth Upland Bird Clinic and Hunt

Wednesday, 8th -- 6pm to 8pm

This upland bird clinic will include instruction in hunting techniques, firearms safety, hunter ethics, wildlife regulations, and game care. Details of the hunt will be announced at the clinic. **Registration opens October 6th.**



### Deep Frying Turkey

Wednesday, 15th -- 6pm to 8pm

It is that time of the year to decide how to cook the family turkey for Thanksgiving dinner. Have you ever tried a deep fried whole turkey? We will learn ways to prepare a turkey for deep frying and approximate cooking time by the weight of the bird. Come join us for a delicious treat! **Registration opens October 16th.**



working with archers to control urban and suburban deer numbers. In many cases, they only permit hunters who have completed bowhunter training to help in these efforts.

Bethel said a much better reason for taking a bowhunter education course is self-improvement.

"Very few bowhunters are so experienced and knowledgeable that they can't learn something through bowhunter education," he said. "If you have been bowhunting less than 10 years, I guarantee you will be a better, more successful, more thoughtful bowhunter after taking one of these courses."

It is ironic that bowhunter education is not required in Missouri, because the Conservation Department and Missouri bowhunters were instrumental in developing the national bowhunter education curriculum. The course covers the history and motivations behind modern bowhunting, safe and responsible bowhunting, archery equipment, hunting preparation, tree-stand safety, shot placement, game recovery and outdoor preparedness.

Another possible reason that few people take bowhunter education classes is the fact that they are not offered routinely, due to lack of participation. Instead, the Conservation Department organizes classes when they are requested.

"If we have enough people request a class to make it worth an instructor's time and effort, we set it up," said Bethel. "I would guess we have a dozen or so every year, compared to about a thousand firearms hunter education classes annually."

In January 1981, President Ronald Reagan visited Mexico and gave President Jose Lopez Portillo a present of a Remington rifle, to "set the tone for a friendly relationship." This gift created quite a stir, especially among gun control advocates, but among hunters, and Reagan is a hunter, such a gift is a real honor. Hunters care deeply for their guns, sometimes engraving rich patterns and scenes on the metal or in the wood of the stock. Today, such scenes are considered decorative, but in earlier times when magical thinking prevailed, the artwork on arms invoked spiritual support for the hunter. - *James A. Swan, In Defense of Hunting*



# St. Louis Region Hunter Education Certification Courses

**ALL COURSES ARE FREE OF CHARGE TO THE PUBLIC UNLESS NOTED**

**(additional courses listed on range program pages)**

The Missouri Hunter Education Certification Course is a mandatory requirement for anyone born on or after January 1, 1967 to purchase a firearm hunting permit or deer and turkey transportation tags. Many of our free youth managed hunts and clinics require both youth and adult to be certified.

Open to ages 11 and up, youth ages 11 thru 13 must have an adult attend with them, ages 15 and younger must bring birth certificate, ages 16 and older must have a valid ID. Students must attend all sessions and pass an exam to become certified.

Topics included: hunter ethics and responsibility, firearms and ammunition, firearms safety, hunter preparation, first aid and survival, hunter skills, primitive hunting equipment, and wildlife conservation, management and identification.

Seating is limited, so reserve your place early and check on any special requirements, bringing of lunches, or fees needed for that location. All regional classes scheduled can be seen on the regional web site at: [www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis)

## Crawford County

*Location:* Bourbon High School Cafeteria  
*Date:* Oct 4th, 5th & 7th  
*Time:* 4th & 5th 6pm to 9:30pm & 7th 9am to 3pm  
*Registration#:* (573) 468-3335

## Franklin County

*Location:* Temple Baptist Church, Sullivan  
*Date:* Oct 16th, 17th & 19th  
*Time:* 6pm to 10pm each night  
*Registration#:* (636) 468-3335 ext 0

*Location:* Union fire House #1  
*Date:* Oct 18th, 19th & 20th  
*Time:* 6:30pm to 10pm each night  
*Registration#:* (636) 583-8471  
*Remarks:* \$3 fee charged by facility

*Location:* Four Rivers Career Ctr Washington  
*Date:* Oct 30 & Nov 2nd & 3rd  
*Time:* 6pm to 10pm each night  
*Registration#:* (636) 239-7777 ext 2923  
*Remarks:* \$5 fee charged by facility

## Jefferson County

*Location:* High Ridge Elks Club  
*Date:* Oct 7th & 8th  
*Time:* 8am to 4pm each day  
*Registration#:* (636) 461-1194  
*Remarks:* Lunch provided on Sunday

A hunter should never let himself be deluded by pride or false sense of dominance. It is not through our power that we take life in nature; it is through the power of nature that life is given to us. *Richard Nelson*

*Location:* Festus Conservation Club  
*Date:* Oct 9th, 11th & 14th  
*Time:* 9th & 11th 6:30pm to 9:30pm & 14th 8am to 4pm  
*Registration#:* (636) -933-0908  
*Remarks:* \$3 Lunch Saturday

*Location:* Jefferson College  
*Date:* Oct 17th, 19th & 21st  
*Time:* 17th & 19th 6:30pm to 9:30pm & 21st 8am to 4pm  
*Registration#:* (636) 797-3000 ext 144  
*Remarks:* \$5 fee charged by facility

## Lincoln County

*Location:* University of Mo Ext., Troy  
*Date:* Oct 20th & 21st  
*Time:* 20th – 6pm to 9pm & 21st - 8am to 6pm  
*Registration#:* (636) 441-4554  
*Remarks:* Registration begins Sep 11th

## St. Charles County

*Location:* Wentzville Parks, Banquet Hall  
*Date:* Oct 7th & 8th  
*Time:* 9am to 4pm each day  
*Registration#:* (636) 332-9236  
*Remarks:* \$5 fee charged by facility

*Location:* August A. Busch C.A.  
*Date:* Oct 14th & 15th  
*Time:* 9am to 4pm each day  
*Registration#:* (636) 441-4554  
*Remarks:* Registrations begin Sep 5th

*Location:* St. Peters City Hall  
*Date:* Oct 14th & 15th  
*Time:* 9am to 4pm each day  
*Registration#:* (636) 477-6600 ext 400  
*Remarks:* \$5 fee charged by facility

*Location:* August A. Busch C.A.  
*Date:* Oct 21st & 22nd  
*Time:* 9am to 4pm each day  
*Registration#:* (636) 441-4554  
*Remarks:* Registrations begin Sep 11th

*Location:* St. Charles Community College  
*Date:* Oct 21st & 22nd  
*Time:* 9am to 4pm each day  
*Registration#:* (636) 922-8233  
*Remarks:* \$5 fee charged by facility

*Location:* Orchard Farm VFW  
*Date:* Nov 4th & 5th  
*Time:* 9am to 4pm each day  
*Registration#:* (636) 441-4554  
*Remarks:* \$5 fee charged by facility

## St. Louis County

*Location:* Meramec Community College  
*Date:* Oct 14th & 15th  
*Time:* 9am to 4pm each day  
*Registration#:* (314) 984-7777  
*Remarks:* \$5 fee charged by facility

*Location:* James J. Eagan Center, Florissant  
*Date:* Oct 14th & 15th  
*Time:* 9am to 4pm each day  
*Registration#:* (314) 839-7671  
*Remarks:* \$5 fee charged by facility

*Location:* Florissant Valley Community College  
*Date:* Oct 21st & 22nd  
*Time:* 9am to 4pm each day  
*Registration#:* (314) 513-444  
*Remarks:* \$5 fee charged by facility

*Location:* Forest Park Community College  
*Date:* Oct 21st & 22nd  
*Time:* 9am to 4pm each day  
*Registration#:* (314) 644-9175  
*Remarks:* \$5 fee charged by facility

*Location:* Columbia Bottom C.A.  
*Date:* Oct 21st & 22nd  
*Time:* 9am to 4pm each  
*Registration#:* (314) 877-6014  
*Remarks:* Reservations begin Sep 11th

*Location:* Powder Valley Nature Center  
*Date:* Oct 21st & 22nd  
*Time:* 9am to 4pm each day  
*Registration#:* (314) 301-1500  
*Remarks:* Registrations begin Sep 11th

*Location:* Greensfelder Complex  
*Date:* Oct 21st and 22nd  
*Time:* 9am to 4pm each day  
*Registration#:* (314) 615-4386  
*Remarks:* \$5 fee charged by facility

## Warren County

*Location:* Marthasville Community Club  
*Date:* Oct 20th & 21st  
*Time:* 20th – 6:30pm to 9:30pm & 21st - 9am to 5pm  
*Registration#:* (636) 433-2240

## Washington County

*Location:* Potosi VFW Hall  
*Date:* Oct 17th, 18th & 19th  
*Time:* 5:30pm to 9pm each night  
*Registration#:* No Pre-registration Required

But are parks for kids anymore? For the *Matrix* generation, much of the natural mystery and risk of the outdoors has been surgically removed. As park officials work to make parks safer and more accessible, the outdoors often ends up feeling more like Disneyland than wilderness. Some kids end up disappointed that the parks aren't *more* Disneyesque. When middle school students sent me their reflections on nature, one boy reported visiting Utah's Rainbow Bridge National Monument, the world's largest natural bridge, which was carved out of the cliffs above modern-day Lake Powell over thousands of years. "The bridge was somewhat disappointing. It was not as perfect as in the brochure," the boy wrote. His parents enhanced the family vacation by renting Jet Skis. - *Richard Louv, Last Child In The Woods, Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder*



### **Conservation Connections**

Missouri Department of Conservation  
2360 Hwy D  
St. Charles, MO 63304-2215  
[www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis)

PRSRT STD.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
JEFFERSON CITY MO  
PERMIT 274

## ***Look On The Web And Register For Our Up Coming Outdoor Programs Here Are Just A Few!***

[www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis)

[www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/busch](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/busch) or [www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/henges](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/henges)

### **December**

#### **At Busch**

*2nd & 3rd Youth Upland Game Bird Clinic and Hunt*

*9th Youth Rabbit Clinic & Hunts*

*16th Air Rifle Basics*

*30th Home Firearm Safety*

#### **At Henges**

*6th Youth Rabbit Clinic*

*15th & 16th Trapping Clinic*

### **January**

#### **At Henges**

*Please keep an eye on our web site as programs are scheduled*

#### **At Busch**

*Please keep an eye on our web site as programs are scheduled*

### **Outdoor Education Center Volunteers Wanted**

Do you like working with people of all ages? We are continually looking for individuals who enjoy sharing their time, love for the outdoors and dedication to conservation. If you are interested contact us at:

Busch (636) 300-1953 ext 251

Henges (636) 938-9548

